

Firearms Requirements

FEBRUARY 1998

Firearms Requirements for Security Guards, Alarm Agents, and Private Investigators

Whether you are licensed or registered in the security, alarm, or private investigation fields, you may **NOT** carry a gun on duty—whether loaded or unloaded—unless you have been issued a firearms permit by the Department of Consumer Affairs. You must keep the permit with you at all times while on duty.

NOTE: *It is illegal for a licensee or registrant to carry a CONCEALED weapon on duty without a permit issued by local authorities.*

Filing an Application—To apply for a firearms permit, you must:

- Take a 14-hour course (8 hours classroom, 6 hours range) in the carrying and use of firearms given by a firearms training instructor certified by the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Pass the written and range exams given at the end of the course.
- Submit an application with two sets of fingerprint cards for criminal record screening.
- Be a United States citizen or have permanent legal alien status.
- Pay a fee of \$164, which includes:
 - \$80 permit application
 - \$28 firearm eligibility application
 - \$32 Department of Justice fingerprint processing
 - \$24 Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint processing.

Classroom Training—During your 8 hours of classroom training, you will learn moral and legal aspects of firearm use, firearms nomenclature, weapons handling and shooting fundamentals, and emergency procedures.

Range Training—The six hours of range training will give you practice in safely handling and firing your weapon. Twice a year you must **requalify** on the range before renewing your permit.

Training Schools—Schools and training instructors must be certified by the Department of Consumer Affairs. Schools must be approved by the Department's Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. To find out if a school is approved, call the Bureau at 916-445-3427. For a list of licensed training schools, call 1-800-952-5210.

Renewals—Firearms permits expire two years from the date of issuance. An applicant must requalify four times during the life of the permit: twice during the first year after the date of issuance, and twice during the second year. Requalifications must be at least four months apart. The application for renewal should be submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs within 60 days **before** the expiration date. The current fee for renewing a firearms permit is \$88. You may not renew your permit once you have allowed it to expire. You must instead apply for a **new** permit.

Weapons Incidents—A security guard who discharges a weapon while on duty (except on the range) must: (1) report the incident to his or her employer within 24 hours and (2) file a written report with the Director, Department of Consumer Affairs, within 7 days. Failure to do so may result in a fine.

Violations—The following acts are prohibited by law while a licensee/registrant is on duty:

- Illegally using, carrying, or possessing a dangerous weapon.
- Carrying an inoperable, replica, or simulated firearm.
- Brandishing or misusing a weapon.
- Drawing a weapon without proper cause.
- Provoking a shooting incident without cause.
- Carrying or using a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs.
- Carrying or using a firearm of a different caliber than that for which a firearms permit has been issued.